

Torrance, California
December 8, 1942

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, December 8, 1942 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held November 24, 1942 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held December 1, 1942 be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication addressed to the Civil Service Board was read from John E. Mock, Operator, Municipal Bus Lines, advising that he was inducted into the United States Army on November 14, 1942, to report for active duty November 21, 1942. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Tide Water Associated Oil Company, Associated Division, advising that no earnings were derived by said company for the twelve months preceding December 2, 1942 from the use, operation and possession of Los Angeles County Franchise Ordinance No. 1351. Matter of record.

A communication was read from The Dicalite Company, expressing appreciation on behalf of the company and employees of the company for the cooperation extended by the City of Torrance in repairing Madison Avenue, which connects the Dicalite Company plant to the main highway. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the City of Gardena, signed by James L. Rush, Transportation Manager, requesting permission to operate the Gardena Municipal Bus Lines over the following route: From 190th Street and Western Avenue to the North gate of the General Petroleum Corporation, and return, this being to accommodate the General Petroleum Corporation who requested this service for said company's employees. A copy of a letter addressed to the City of Gardena from the General Petroleum Corporation pertaining to this matter was also read.

It was stated in the communication from Mr. Rush that the City of Torrance, if it enters into the above agreement, shall retain the privilege of revoking the agreement at any time.

Mr. Ward, Manager, Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, recommended that, inasmuch as the above outlined plan would not offer competition to the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, the agreement as outlined be entered into.

Mr. Murphy, representing the General Petroleum Corporation, addressed the Council and stressed the importance of providing transportation for employees of his company.

Councilman Powell moved that the Mayor be authorized to enter into an agreement with the City of Gardena to permit said City to operate the Gardena Municipal Bus Line over the following route:

From 190th Street and Western Avenue to the North gate of the General Petroleum Corporation and return, a clause to be included in the agreement to permit the City of Torrance to terminate the agreement at any time. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Gucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Nene.

A communication was read from C. Z. Ward, Manager, Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, requesting the City Council to authorize the payment of one week salary to L. L. Crowther in lieu of one week vacation which Mr. Crowther is entitled to.

This communication was accompanied by a communication from the Civil Service Board, which was also read, advising that it is in order to pay Mr. L. L. Crowther for one week instead of requiring him to take one week vacation which he is entitled to.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the Manager of the Bus Lines, approved by the Civil Service Board, that L. L. Crowther, bus operator, be paid for one week in lieu of his one week vacation, which he is entitled to, be complied with. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication addressed to Chief of Police John H. Stroh and Chief of the Fire Department, John E. McMaster from the Civil Service Board was read, in which it was stated that the members of the Civil Service Board governing the Police and Fire Departments under Ordinance No. 249 had taken action at a meeting held November 3, 1942 that the Civil Service Rules and Regulations supplementing Personnel Ordinance No. 326 be adopted to supplement Ordinance No. 249 for the Police and Fire Departments, insofar as they do not conflict with Ordinance No. 249.

Mr. Crowther addressed the Council, stating that the purpose of the above action is to facilitate the work of the Civil Service Board.

It was decided, after short discussion, to confer with the Civil Service Board on this matter before taking action.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, stating that, in a recent examination held for the position of City Judge, Albert Isen was No. 1 on the list, with a rating of 80.50% and Mr. Otto B. Willett was No. 2, with a rating of 77.83%. It was recommended that Rule IX, Section 3 of the Civil Service Rules and Regulations be followed in filling the position temporarily made vacant by the resignation of Judge Shidler.

Councilman Gucci moved that the temporary appointment of Otto B. Willett to the position of City Judge of the City of Torrance, to fill the position temporarily made vacant by the resignation of Judge John A. Shidler be approved, Mr. Willett having qualified for the position through a recent examination conducted for the position. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion.

Councilman Babcock contended that the applicant with the highest rating should be appointed, this being, he said, in compliance with the Civil Service Rules and Regulations. It was pointed out, however, that, in making appointments, the City Council has a choice of one of three applicants with the highest ratings.

Mr. Crowther suggested that the Council defer action on this matter to allow time for study of Rule IX, Section 3 of the Rules.

A vote was taken on the above motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Walteria Civic Organization, expressing appreciation for participation of the Council in recent ceremonies at which time a permanent monument to the Walteria men serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America was erected. Mayor McGuire was especially thanked for the dedication speech he made.

Mayor McGuire complimented the WALTERIA Civic Organization for the excellent arrangement of the program.

A communication was read from John Kirsch, offering the Kirsch water works in North Torrance to the City of Torrance as a gift. It was stated that, if accepted, a deed will be given to the City of Torrance for same.

Mrs. Kirsch addressed the Council, stating that twelve consumers now use water from the above-mentioned water works.

Councilman Hitchcock expressed appreciation for the offer made by Mr. Kirsch.

Councilman Cucci moved that the matter be referred to City Engineer Jain and Water Superintendent Stanger for checking and report at the meeting Monday, December 14, 1942. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that Mr. Fred Bever be appointed to a temporary position with the Torrance Fire Department, effective December 1, 1942. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci stated that a question had arisen between himself and Clerk Bartlett regarding who is on the Ordinance Committee of the City Council.

At this time, Mayor McGuire appointed, by motion, the Ordinance Committee as follows: Councilman Cucci, to act as Chairman of the Ordinance Committee, Councilman Babcock, and Councilman Powell. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci requested that Section 52, Ordinance No. 235, providing a license fee of \$12.00 per annum for vending machines, be either enforced or repealed. He asked why this section of the ordinance had never been enforced.

Clerk Bartlett replied that, shortly after adoption of Ordinance No. 235, the Council had decided that to enforce Section 52 would work a hardship on the merchants of the City and had therefore, decided not to enforce it.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that this matter be referred to the Ordinance Committee to determine what action should be taken regarding Section 52, Ordinance No. 235 of the City of Torrance. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Councilman Powell suggested that a number of ordinances be re-vamped.

Councilman Cucci stated that he had prepared copies of a proposed ordinance to license pin and marble games, and had left the license fee to be established by the City Council. It was decided to confer further on this matter before arriving at an amount felt to be appropriate for licensing of the machines.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$84.83, plus tax, be made for purchase of 2.245 tons of barley hay. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

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Engineer Jain reported he had requested by letter that owners of three unsafe earthquake-damaged buildings begin immediate action to repair the buildings or take other steps to eliminate the hazards. He said no response to his letters had been forthcoming.

A short discussion ensued as to what action the City should take. Engineer Jain stated he hesitates to destroy buildings if there is any possible chance to repair them, although, he said, it is also the responsibility of the city to eliminate the hazard existing as a result of the damage to the buildings. He asked whether the City desires to condemn and destroy the buildings, or to barricade them, and in either case, to bill the owner for expense incurred in whatever action is resorted to.

It was decided to await the return of Attorney McCall before taking action regarding earthquake damaged buildings.

Mayor McGuire moved that the City Engineer be authorized to check the Walteria Library Building and expend whatever funds are necessary for an effective dim-out of the building, this being in compliance with a request from Mrs. Jamieson, Librarian. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Stanger, Manager, Municipal Water District No. 1, stated that he had arrived late at the meeting and asked what action was taken regarding a letter from the State Guard in which it was stated that the State Guard Unit is being removed from the Pumping Plant. He was advised that the letter had not been read at this meeting; that Lieutenant Chalmers Dulmage is to appear at 9:00 P.M. and discuss the matter with the City Council.

Mr. Stager remarked that, during the first three months the State Guard was stationed at the Pumping Plant, much destruction had been wrought by them. He said it had been impossible for the employees of the Water Works to get near enough the Pumping Plant at night to check the Plant and ascertain whether it was in proper working order or not. He remarked further that he did not have a very good opinion of either the State Guard or the National Guard, and that he felt the plant could be guarded without their assistance. In case of sabotage, he further stated, other water can be furnished the city within a period of ten minutes.

He stated that there are three men only who are trained to operate the Waterworks. He said that his repeated appeals to the Selective Service Board to defer those valuable men trained in this work have been disregarded, and valuable workers inducted into the Armed Forces. He mentioned Cecil Powell, who was working for the Water Company at the time he entered the Army. He stressed the extreme importance of the Water Company to the community, pointing out that, if the water works were disabled, all factories would cease operations, the sewer system would be rendered useless, and all the citizenry deprived of water. Another of his workers, he continued, has been placed in 1-A classification by the Local Draft Board, and is due to be inducted soon.

Mr. Charles Elman, 318 South Figueroa, addressed the Council at this time, his subject being transportation. He stated he had heard Mr. Joseph B. Eastman, Transportation Authority, address the State Chamber of Commerce on the subject of transportation. He briefly summarized Mr. Eastman's speech, urging that the Council devote much attention to this matter.

Councilman Powell moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:35 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Cucci, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned to Monday, December 14, 1942 at 4:45 P.M.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance